

October 31, 2019

Chance to carve out a giant pumpkin title

Pumpkin growers across southeast Queensland will soon turn their attention from jack-o'-lanterns to giant gourds, with entries opening today for the Royal Queensland Show's (Ekka) Giant Pumpkin Competition supported by Pillow Talk.

The iconic competition offers more than \$2,200 in prize money, with \$1,000 awarded to the Heaviest Pumpkin of Show.

The winning school will also cash in with \$400 up for grabs - \$200 for the win, plus a bonus \$200 if their pumpkin is more than 50kg.

The competition is curriculum aligned for Prep to Year 10, planting the seed of knowledge about the importance of agriculture and the critical role it plays in our everyday lives.

Judging will take place in the Royal International Convention Centre at the Brisbane Showgrounds on Saturday 2 May, with the competition held outside of the August Ekka dates to take advantage of the premium pumpkin growing season.

Minden's Tony Frohloff currently holds the pump-king title, after smashing the competition out of the veggie patch in May 2019 with a 254.5kg pumpkin. He also took out second place with a 210kg entry.

The competition is open to farmers, schools and amateur gardeners who think they can grow a pumpkin destined for big things.

To give the pumpkins time to pack on the pounds, it's best to have the seeds planted by December 2019 as the fruit takes around four and a half months to mature.

Growers can request their free Giant Atlantic pumpkin seeds and an information pack by emailing education@royalqueenslandshow.com.au.

Entries close Friday 24 April 2020. For more information and to enter go to www.ekka.com.au/competitions

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